

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 - 37. (cancelled)

Claim 38. (currently amended) A method of playing a game, comprising:

- 2 (a) beginning the game with a player's game piece operatively on a starting non-  
absorbent point in a row of at least two non-absorbent points, said row  
4 bounded on ~~one~~ each end by ~~a first absorbent point and on the other end by a~~  
~~second~~ an absorbent point;
- 6 (b) receiving at least one wager that the game piece will be moved to ~~the~~ a  
predetermined first absorbent point before being moved to ~~the~~ a  
8 predetermined second absorbent point;
- 10 (c) observing an event that dictates to which point the game piece must be  
moved, wherein a first outcome of the observed event causes said dictated  
point to be on one side of the point on which the game piece is currently  
12 operatively on, and wherein a second outcome of the observed event causes

the dictated point to be on the other side of said current operative point;

(d) determining whether the dictated point is a non-absorbent point, the first absorbent point, or the second absorbent point;

(e) calculating an inchoate cargo in relation to the player's wager if the dictated point is a non-absorbent point;

~~(e)~~ (f) moving the game piece to said dictated point and repeating at least steps

(c) and ~~(d)~~ (e) if the dictated point is a non-absorbent point, such that said

inchoate cargo calculation changes during play of the game;

~~(f)~~ (g) awarding the player the at least one wager if the dictated point is the first

absorbent point; and

~~(g)~~ (h) denying the player the at least one wager if the dictated point is the

second absorbent point.

Claim 39. (cancelled).

Claim 40. (previously presented) The method of claim 38 further comprising

selecting a starting non-absorbent point from more than one available starting non-absorbent points.

Claim 41. (previously presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the

starting non-absorbent point becomes a first or second absorbent point after the

first move of the game.

Claim 42. (previously presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the  
2 observed event involves one or more decks of cards, one or more dice, one or  
more coins, a roulette wheel, a sporting event, a horse race, a meteorological  
4 event, or a computer.

Claim 43. (currently amended) A method of playing a game, comprising:

2 (a) beginning the game with a player's game piece operatively on a starting non-  
absorbent point on a multi-dimensional game board comprising a plurality of  
4 non-absorbent points surrounded by a plurality of absorbent points;

(b) receiving at least one wager that the game piece will be moved to a first  
6 absorbent point before being moved to a second absorbent point;

(c) observing one or more events that dictates which adjacent point the game  
8 piece must be moved to, said one or more events providing for at least a first  
outcome and a second outcome, wherein the first outcome dictates a first  
10 dictated adjacent point to which the game piece must be moved and the  
second outcome dictates a second dictated adjacent point to which the game  
12 piece must be moved, and wherein the first and second dictated adjacent  
points are in generally opposite directions from the point on which the game  
14 piece is currently operatively on;

(d) determining whether said dictated adjacent point is a non-absorbent point, a

first absorbent point, or a second absorbent point;

(e) calculating an inchoate cargo in relation to the player's wager if the dictated

point is a non-absorbent point;

~~(e)~~ (f) moving the game piece to said dictated adjacent point and repeating at

least steps (c) and ~~(d)~~ (e) if the dictated adjacent point is a non-absorbent

point, such that said inchoate cargo calculation changes during play of the

game;

~~(f)~~ (g) awarding the player the at least one wager if the dictated adjacent point is

a first absorbent point; and

~~(g)~~ (h) denying the player the at least one wager if the dictated adjacent point is

a second absorbent point.

Claim 44. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the

observed event involves a first dice and a second dice,

wherein half of the faces on the first dice dictate moving the game piece in a

first direction and the other half of the faces on the first dice dictate

moving the game piece in a second direction opposite said first direction,

wherein half of the faces on the second dice dictate moving the game piece

in a third direction and the other half of the faces on the second dice

dictate moving the game piece in a fourth direction opposite said third

direction.

Claim 45. (previously presented) The method of claim 44 wherein the first  
2 direction is oblique to said third direction.

Claim 46. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the non-  
2 absorbent points are oriented in a north, south, east, and west orientation to one  
another or a northwest, northeast, southwest, or southeast orientation to one  
4 another;

Claim 47. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein one or  
2 more absorbent points are interspersed among the non-absorbent points at  
predetermined locations in addition to the plurality of absorbent points that  
4 surround the non-absorbent points.

Claim 48. (cancelled).

Claim 49. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 the wager involves  
2 a selection of a particular one or more first absorbent points from more than one  
first absorbent points.

Claim 50. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the wager  
2 involves a selection of a particular one or more second absorbent points from  
more than one second absorbent points.

Claim 51. (currently amended) A method of playing a game, comprising:

2 (a) receiving at least one wager that a game piece will be moved to a first  
absorbent point before being moved to a second absorbent point, said wager  
4 being placed while said game piece is on a non-absorbent point that is  
adjacent to at least one other non-absorbent point;

6 (b) observing one or more events that dictates to which point the game piece  
must be moved, said one or more events providing for at least a first  
8 outcome and a second outcome, wherein the first outcome dictates a first  
dictated point to which the game piece must be moved and the second  
10 outcome dictates a second dictated point to which the game piece must be  
moved, and wherein the first and second dictated points are in generally  
12 opposite directions from the point where the game piece is currently located;

(c) determining whether the point to which the game piece must be moved is a  
14 non-absorbent point, a first absorbent point, or a second absorbent point;

(d) calculating an inchoate cargo in relation to the player's wager if the point to  
16 which the game piece must be moved is a non-absorbent point;

~~(d)~~ (e) if the point to which the game piece must be moved is a non-absorbent

18 point, moving the game piece to said non-absorbent point and repeating at  
least steps (b) and ~~(e)~~ (d), such that said inchoate cargo calculation changes  
20 during play of the game;

~~(e)~~ (f) awarding the player the at least one wager if the point to which the game  
22 piece must be moved is a first absorbent point; and

~~(f)~~ (g) denying the player the at least one wager if the point to which the game  
24 piece must be moved is a second absorbent point.

Claim 52. (cancelled).

Claim 53. (previously presented) The method of claim 51 further comprising  
2 selecting a starting non-absorbent point from more than one available starting  
non-absorbent points.

Claim 54. (previously presented) The method of claim 51 the wager involves  
2 a selection of a particular one or more first absorbent points from more than one  
first absorbent points.

Claim 55. (previously presented) The method of claim 51 the wager involves  
2 a selection of a particular one or more second absorbent points from more than  
one second absorbent points.

Claim 56. (previously presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the  
2 observed event involves one or more decks of cards, one or more dice, one or  
more coins, a roulette wheel, a sporting event, a horse race, a meteorological  
4 event, or a computer.

Claim 57. (previously presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the wager  
2 is selected from a group consisting of a sink bet, a safe bet, a sink-emperor bet,  
a safe-emperor bet, an insurance bet, a wager based on duration, a place bet, a  
4 wager that the game-piece will enter one or more given states prior to entering  
one or more other states, and any combination thereof.

Claim 58. (previously presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the first  
2 absorbent point corresponds to a safe point or a swim point and wherein the  
second absorbent point corresponds to a sink point or an edge point.

Claim 59. (previously presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the game  
2 is played on a game board comprising one or more player stations, wherein each  
player station comprises one or more betting areas.